



## Chances seen improving for Likud-Labour coalition

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party may propose the prestigious cabinet post of finance minister for Labour Party leader Shimon Peres to heighten chances of Israel being ruled again by a joint government, news reports said Sunday.

According to the proposal, drawn up this weekend during secret contacts between Likud and Labour, Peres would get the finance portfolio while American-born Moshe Arens of Likud would replace Peres as foreign minister, four prominent newspapers said. Yitzhak Rabin of Labour would remain defence minister, they said.

The reported compromise appeared likely to entice Labour leaders back to the negotiating table after breaking off talks with Likud last week.

The talks ended after Shamir objected to meeting Labour's key demand of an equal role in the cabinet, including two key ministries besides defense.

Shamir aide and Likud legislator Roni Milo indicated Sunday that a proposal to give Labour the

powerful finance ministry was under consideration but said on army radio it "would still have to be discussed by the Likud ministers."

Shamir's spokesman Yossi Ahimeir said the reports were "speculation," but acknowledged that Shamir has sought ways of renewing negotiations for a coalition with Labour.

"A way must be found to bring about talks for a broad and stable government. This he (Shamir) definitely wants," Ahimeir said in a telephone interview.

He added that Shamir hoped to bring about a coalition with the Labour Party would hamper Israel's ability to quell the 11-month Palestinian uprising.

"What is vital now is a government fit to make decisions, that acts as one," Shamir told reporters. "If the prime minister wants a government that can make decisions, he can present such a government this week."

Labour officials responded skeptically to the reported compromise, but indicated it would be considered if offered.

"For those like me who oppose

the Labour Party joining the government it won't matter whether Labour is offered the finance ministry," said party secretary and legislator Uzi Bar-Am.

"There will be a big struggle inside the party.

Hawkish Trade Minister Ariel

Sharon, architect of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion, meanwhile tried Sunday to stop Likud from forming a government that would deny him the defence ministry.

Sharon, 60, said he had persuaded the ultra-religious Agudat Israel party Saturday to join a Likud government, thus assuring Likud a parliamentary majority without Labour.

He said another coalition with the Labour Party would hamper Israel's ability to quell the 11-month Palestinian uprising.

"What is vital now is a government fit to make decisions, that acts as one," Shamir told reporters. "If the prime minister wants a government that can make decisions, he can present such a government this week."

News reports said Shamir was to discuss the coalition proposal with Peres after the weekly cabinet session Sunday, which convenes at Shamir's office.

Shamir and Peres have held no formal meeting since the Nov. 1 elections, when the Likud edged out Labour 40 seats to 39 in the 120-seat parliament.

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Two Afghan rebel fighters keep watch over a strategic valley near the border with Pakistan (Sigma photo)

## Afghan rebels claim control of position strategic border

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Rebels

Sunday claimed to have regained control of a strategic border post on a critical supply route between Pakistan and the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad.

During a week of fighting that ended Saturday, U.S.-supported insurgents overran several Afghan government posts along the highway linking Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan.

They now claim to control a 35-kilometre stretch of the road, said Faiz Akbar, director of the pro-rebel Afghan Information and Documentation Centre.

Trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan has remained brisk despite 10 years of war between guerrillas, armed by Pakistan and the United States, and the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

The provincial capital of Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar is dependent on Pakis-

tan for the bulk of its food.

The battle for control of the border post at Torkham and the highway began Nov. 2 when insurgents claimed victory, promising to keep the road closed until Jalalabad City was in guerrilla control.

Within two weeks Soviet commandos, airlifted to Jalalabad from the Afghan capital of Kabul, made a sweep of the highway, eventually recapturing the border post, said Western and rebel sources.

Noor said guerrillas encountered little resistance from government troops at Torkham because their food rations were

exhausted after rebels had hindered resupply efforts.

When the government forces surrendered, Noor said they complained "they were very hungry."

Meanwhile, Akbar said two Soviet-made surface-to-surface Scud missiles hit the Torkham area Saturday. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

Akbar said one exploded near a guerrilla-controlled post near the border. Another landed, but did not explode, near the village of Busawal, about 30 kilometres east of the Afghan-Pakistan border, said Akbar.

Scud missiles along with MiG-27 fighter jets were introduced into Afghanistan by the Soviet Union earlier this month saying stepped up attacks by guerrillas made it necessary to upgrade Kabul's arsenal.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

### Jordan spearheads bid to move U.N. session

(Continued from page 1)

"knows of, condones, and lends support to such acts," and is "an accessory to such terrorism."

In a statement Pasi, Masri said the U.N. action was "unjustified and disappointing," saying the PLO leader had every right to address the U.N. under the agreement between the United States and the world organization.

"Regrettably, the motives behind this decision are known. The pressure of the Zionist lobby in Washington is closely connected with this decision," Masri said.

Mubarak said in Cairo that he and King Hussein were in constant touch on matters of concern to the Arab Nation as a whole.

In a meeting with Egyptian National Democratic Party, the president said that Egypt wholeheartedly supported the PNC resolutions, which underlined the future relationship between Jordan and Palestine and recognition of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and renunciation of terrorism.

The president expressed hope that these resolutions would draw support from the international community.

Mubarak said that his country would exert all possible efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference. But, he added, it would be some time before that objective could be achieved pending removal of obstacles in its way, more efforts on the part of the participants and a unified stand by Arab states.

"It is most regrettable to have this American decision come shortly after historic decisions were taken by the PNC in Algiers, decisions which the world saw as positive, moderate and constructive," Masri said.

"We had believed that this moderation, which the unified states had been demanding, would get an American welcome," he said.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Cairo and Baghdad that Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid had postponed and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz had scrapped plans to attend the U.N. session in New York, scheduled to begin Dec. 1.

In a statement issued in Cairo, Abdul Meguid said the American move had cast doubt on Washington's commitment to peace in the Middle East.

"The action by America is a warning to the Arabs and all small and oppressed countries to fight to move the U.N. location from the American land to another country," JANA

said. The Algerian government criticized the American decision calling it a negative and unjustifiable development.

Italy expressed "astonishment" over the U.S. decision and summoned an embassy official to ask for an explanation.

It is also against U.S. assertions, as a major party to the peace process, of its commitment to work towards lasting peace in the region."

Abdul Meguid said Washington's action should not discourage peace efforts.

"Baring Arafat... should not discourage forces working for a just and comprehensive peace in the region, but it should be an incentive for the moderate forces that gained wide international credibility to continue efforts to achieve peace and support newly-proclaimed Palestinian state."

Despite deep divisions, Shamir's main political rival, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the Labour Party, also praised the move. He expressed Israel's "appreciation of the decision" in a telegram to Washington Saturday night, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

Palestinians in both Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip denounced the U.S. decision as a blow to PLO moves towards peace.

They said the PLO had denounced terrorism and recognized Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Bassam Sharif, chief spokesman for Arafat, told reporters the United States had made "a big mistake by breaching the agreement... between the United Nations as an institution and the United States government."

James Abourezk, chairman of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said it was "embarrassing" and "shameful" that Shultz

would allow Israel to dictate whom the American people can or cannot hear in Kuwait.

If the U.S. continued to ignore Palestinian rights, the PLO might reconsider its new, moderate positions.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Khuri said the United States was trying "to choke the voice of peace" and questioned whether Washington had abandoned responsibility for Middle East peace.

President-elect George Bush, asked about the visit in Kennedysport, Maine said: "No comment."

White House spokesman Bon Jarratt, in Santa Barbara, California, where President Reagan is vacationing, said Reagan was aware of the State Department's decision, but "had no role in it."

Earlier this year, the U.S. Congress passed legislation to close the PLO's observer mission at the U.N., but the measure was overturned by a federal court.

In retaliation, Iraq has re-

peatedly harassed Iranian POWs.

The exchange has been dogged by disputes since it began Thursday. Iraq reduced the number of sick or wounded Iranian prisoners it allowed to return to Tehran after Iran cut the number of Iraqis sent to Baghdad.

## Iran halts prisoner exchange

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran said Sunday it was halting further prisoner of war (PoW) exchanges with Iraq until a full quota of Iranian PoWs is released, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the Red Cross-sponsored repatriation of sick and disabled prisoners from the Gulf war would be suspended pending return of the numbers originally agreed.

The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) said Iran and Iraq freed 71 disabled soldiers Sunday — 19 Iranians and 52 Iraqis — in the third such swap this week.

Iran has freed fewer prisoners than agreed, claiming that some Iraqis had sought asylum and others had recovered from their wounds and no longer were eligible.

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# National News

## Ajlouni to chair meeting on development of Aqaba hotels

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting will be held in the coming week under the chairmanship of Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni to discuss matters related to the development of hotels in the port city of Aqaba in the light of reports prepared by a special committee about this subject, the minister announced Sunday.

He said representatives of hotels and tourist and travel offices in the city will take part in the meeting to review the reports in detail and to look into means of providing further facilities and updating the quality of tourist centres in the port city.

This step is required, he said, in order to face the growing tourist industry in the city in the coming season.

The minister said that means of developing hotel services will be among the main issue to be discussed.

He said he sent a memorandum to the Aqaba Region Authority president to inform him of the meeting and the different topics to be discussed.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**KING CONGRATULATES MAURITANIA:** His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable to President Maa'wiya Weld Sid Ahmad Taye of Mauritania, congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government on Mauritania's National Day, and wishing him continued good health and the Mauritanian people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

**KING SENDS CONDOLENCES:** His Majesty King Hussein Sunday delegated his advisor for tribal affairs Col. Fawwaz Zaben Abdulla to convey his condolences to Al Sirhan tribes on the death of the late Sheikh Jalal Ibn Bali. (Petra)

**PRINCE VISITS PSD:** His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with PSD Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali and was briefed on the PSD's new policy aimed at applying the comprehensive security concept.

**CABINET APPROVES REVISED LAW:** The cabinet Sunday approved a revised law for the Jordan Engineers Association, which will serve as a provisional law as of the date of its promulgation in the gazette. The revised law waived the provision of obtaining the general secondary certificate, scientific stream for those who joined the university or an engineering college, before the enforcement of the law in 1986. (Petra)

**OFFICIALS INSPECT MA'AN SCHOOLS:** Ministry of Education officials Sunday inspected the school buildings in Ma'an Governorate to assess the needs of these schools for maintenance, furniture, and to explore the possibility of using the computer in Ma'an Secondary School for Girls. (Petra)

**DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES:** Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr called on chairman of all municipal and village councils to direct special attention to the development programmes and to coordinate with the ministry in studying such projects and not to apply for any loans for service projects, except when there is a dire need for such loans. (Petra)

**HUMIDITY IN BUILDINGS:** The Energy and Electricity Information and Advisory Centre Sunday organised a symposium on humidity in buildings in Jordan at the Yarmouk University. Addressing the symposium were a number of experts from Jordan, Denmark and West Germany. (Petra)

**FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS-TO ADU:** Arab Dentists Union (ADU) Sunday urged the member states to honour their financial commitments to the union and called on the Arab governments and organisations to support financially the union by setting up joint projects with the World Health Organisation and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation. The union currently meeting in Amman, elected Dr. Abdul Aziz Haj Ahmad of Jordan as assistant secretary of its executive board, which is headed by Dr. Abdullah Al Sibahi. (Petra)

**FIXING PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS:** A committee charged with following up the government's recent economic, financial and monetary measures held a meeting Saturday evening under the chairmanship of Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf and set up sub-committees to fix new index of prices of different products. (Petra)

**NEW KARAK MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL:** Karak Governor Mazen Al Ouran has announced the names of the new council members of Karak Municipality. These are: Abdullah Duman, Ahmad Kafawin, Faisal Shamaleh, Salman Al Absiyyat, Ali Karaki, Abdul Ilah Al Madadha, Odeh Al Ja'afreh and Abdullah Al Ja'afreh. The municipal elections took place in Karak Saturday. (Petra)

**HASHISH TRAFFICKER JAILED:** The military court has sentenced Anwar Fikri Abdullah Hussein to two years in prison and the payment of a JD 800 for trafficking with hashish. The military governor Sunday endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

**SEMINAR ON SOCIAL WORK:** A week-long training seminar on social work in the Tafileh region opened Sunday with the participation of 30 local women. The participants who all belong to charitable and voluntary centres in the Tafileh Governorate will hear lectures and get training on working out programmes for the participation of women in development schemes. (Petra)

**CULTURAL FESTIVAL:** Under the patronage of Culture and National Heritage Minister Dr. Mohammad Al Hammouri, the "National Book Festival" will be held at the public library in Anjara on Dec. 28, 1988. The festival will include various cultural activities, a national book exhibition, an art exhibition, the historical document exhibition, a children's drawing exhibition, and educational film shows. The festival will run through Jan. 2, 1989. (Petra)

**JUST BOOK EXHIBITION:** Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Vice President for Administrative Affairs Dr. Fayed Al Khazawneh Saturday opened the university book exhibition. The five-day exhibition includes books in medical sciences, engineering, dictionaries, references, and other scientific and cultural books. (Petra)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An exhibition of iconographies, signs and public places by the German artist Otto Herbert Hajek at the Department of Architecture at the University of Jordan.
- \* A plastic art exhibition by 55 artists from Irbid Governorate at Irbid Youth Centre.
- \* An exhibition covering T.S. Eliot's life and literary works at the British Council.
- \* A book exhibition at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- \* The French week to exhibit the latest techniques used in the field of civil aviation at the Marriott Hotel.
- \* A cultural festival which includes a national book exhibition, an art exhibition, historical photos and documents exhibition, children's paintings and other activities at Anjara Public Library building Ajloun.

### LECTURES

- \* A lecture on music by National Music Conservatory Director Dr. Khalil Fakhouri at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 4:30 p.m.
- \* Dr. Joseph A. Green, Cultural Resource Management (CRM) consultant to the Department of Antiquities, presents the results of phase 1 of the Archaeological Survey of Greater Amman (ASGA) at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) — 7:00 p.m.
- \* A health lecture on kidneys by Dr. Ismael Hamed at the Biology Auditorium, the University of Jordan — 12 noon.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inspects various items on display at the Bani Hamida Weaving Exhibition in South Shuneh (Petra photo)

## Queen Noor visits Bani Hamida weaving exhibition in S. Shuneh

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday visited the Bani Hamida Weaving Exhibition in South Shuneh and inspected various items on display there.

The exhibition, which was opened under the Queen's patronage last Friday, displays rugs, cushions and wall hangings, all handmade of woolen material.

The project is a joint venture by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Save the Children Federation.

In line with its concern for cultural and community development, the NHF is engaged in a scheme to revitalise Jordan's national handicrafts. The project for the promotion of handicrafts in Jordan has a three-fold goal of reviving and promoting a unique aspect of Jordan's national heritage, increasing work opportunities for low income families, and enhancing the status of women as wage-earners and decision-makers in their communities.

The project is based in the home to allow mothers to participate while tending children and their flocks. It is at the same time helping to revive a craft that was fast dying out.

Save the Children Federation organised a production network for spinners, dyers, loomsetters, weavers and village supervisors in 10 villages. Rug designs were modernised and markets developed. USAID awarded a 3-year grant to enable project expansion in June 1987. This effort is being carried out in cooperation with the Ministries of Labour and Social Development.

In 1986, three exhibitions were held, two in Amman and one in Washington D.C. A similar exhibition was held last November.

Last September a unique collection of rugs was exhibited in Amman.

Future plans of the NHF handicrafts project include:

— Opening a multi-purpose handicraft marketing and development centre focusing on raw material procurement and distribution, design development,

— Organising a National Handicraft Year, including exhibitions, symposia, workshops and programmes in schools.

— Holding three international exhibitions in 1989 to promote Jordanian handicrafts.

— Establishing satellite sales outlets in Aqaba.

— Developing diversified marketable product lines in embroidery, weaving, ceramics, glass, basketry and leatherwork and

— Conducting skill and technology training in embroidery, weaving, ceramics, glass, basketry, leatherwork, small business management, simple accounting and sales.

After the visit, the Queen held a meeting to discuss projects that are being implemented by the Save the Children Federation in Jordan. These include embroidery, quilting and semi-cooked meals sold in shops and supermarkets.

The meeting, which was attended by NHF Director General Mrs. Inaam Al Mufri, Mrs. Laila Sharaf and Mrs. Rebecca Salti also discussed expanding the process of marketing the Bani Hamida rugs in Europe and North America and a meeting to be held in January here for the evaluation of the project.

In an arrival statement, Hindawi said that he also discussed the potential role of the British Development Ministry in supporting teachers training in technology and computer fields.

### Tarawneh back from Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Khaled Tarawneh Sunday returned to Amman after a visit to Sudan where he made an assessment of the volume of technical and administrative assistance needed by that country to modernise the Sudanese civil defence services.

In a statement upon returning to Amman, Tarawneh said his visit was a continuation of Jordan's efforts to help Sudan overcome the consequences of drought, famine and floods and enable the Arab country to muster sufficient manpower and skill to deal with further natural disasters.

Tarawneh said he met with Sudanese ministers of health, defence, interior and industry and

heard from them a review of the present situation in the country and areas where improvement and modernisation should be launched.

Tarawneh visited areas recently affected by floods and discussed with civil defence authorities means of providing rescue and relief services to the stricken regions.

He also toured a number of agricultural projects, fire departments and several industrial concerns.

Tarawneh said Jordan will continue to extend aid to Sudan and to offer training to Sudanese personnel in civil defence fields in implementation of resolutions taken by the Arab Interior Ministers Council.

## Commission appoints 6,197 new government employees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has appointed 6,197 employees in different government departments since the endorsement by the government of a list of appointments in public service in August 1988. CSC President Ibrahim Izzedin announced Sunday.

He said out of this number there were 2,882 females and the rest were males who were recruited to fill posts upon the recommendation of a special CSC committee and a request by government departments.

Izzedin said that the CSC will continue the process of filling vacant posts at the ministries and various departments until the end of 1988.

**NEW DOCTORS:** The Health Ministry has allowed eighty new doctors to practise medicine in the Kingdom. This comes within the framework of the efforts designed to reduce unemployment among graduate doctors. (Petra)

**ANJARA PROJECTS:** The Anjara Municipality asphalted 36,000 square metres of the township streets this year at the cost of JD 45,000. Anjara Mayor Naser Al Zaghloul has said that the Organisation of Arab Cities agreed in principle to grant the municipality a loan amounting to JD 75,000 to carry out useful projects in the township. He added that the public library will be opened Monday at the municipality. (Petra)

## Seminar urges better ways to manage water

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A regional seminar on management of water resources in urban regions Sunday called on governments and the public to encourage the use of special techniques that can ensure better financial and administrative management of water resources.

The recommendation was included with others in a final statement issued upon the conclusion of the seminar, which was called to look into measures that can be adopted to make available sufficient drinking water for all, and to rationalise the use of water for various purposes.

The statement recommended the installation of high quality water meters for reading the consumed amount and a continuous follow-up of maintenance on water networks and meters to ensure that no water supplies are wasted.

It called on governments to introduce a system by which people with low income can pay less than other sectors and that the industrial and commercial sectors bear most of the cost of the water supply.

The seminar underlined the importance of the role of public relations and the relaying of information to the members of the public in ways of rationalising the consumption of water.

Water resources development should be planned at the national level and the task of water development and supply of water should be entrusted to a semi-independent department, the statement said.

The pipes to be used in the

networks should be adapted to the environment, the soil and to the nature of water itself, the statement added.

The seminar was opened last Saturday by Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhaqan, who spoke about the water situation in Jordan and said the Kingdom was expected to require nearly 266 million cubic metres of water for annual consumption by the year 2005.

He also said that nearly 99 per cent of the population in the country receive water from water networks in the urban regions.

The seminar which was organised by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in cooperation with the World Health Organisation and the World Bank was attended by delegates from Jordan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bahrain, North and South Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia.

## Princess Basma, Duchess of Kent discuss QAF works, achievements

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairman of the board of trustees of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) Sunday discussed with the Duchess of Kent, who is honorary member in the QAF, the fund's activities and achievements in the field of social work.

She also reviewed with the duchess the projects carried out by the QAF, and the fund's future projects in the field of establishing social development centres and rehabilitation of the disabled.

The Duchess of Kent voiced appreciation of Princess Basma's efforts and those of the QAF.

Princess Basma said that her efforts had contributed to developing the local community in the various parts of the Kingdom.

The guest then watched a documentary film on the fund's activities since its establishment.

The Duchess of Kent arrived here Saturday on few-day visit to Jordan.

## Cabinet approves loan pact between IDB, European bank

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi returned home Sunday after a week-long visit to Britain, during which he held talks with British officials on means of developing bilateral relations in educational field, with special focus on the application of computer technology in government schools.

The council also endorsed another agreement under which the European Investment Bank will grant the Agricultural Credit Corporation a loan of eight million ECUs to support teachers training in technology and computer fields.

On Nov. 15 the European Community initiated another agreement with the Ministry of Planning to offer Jordan a grant of one million ECUs to help finance scholarships and training programmes benefiting Jordanian government employees.

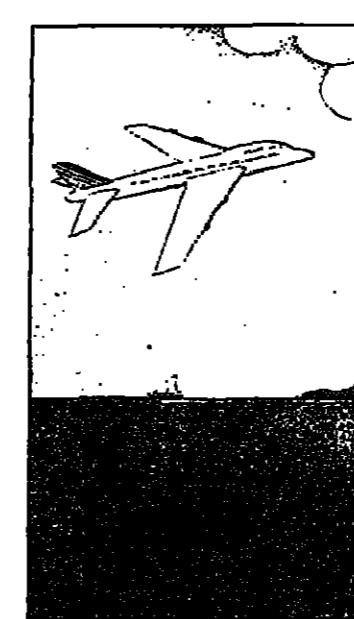
The programmes are for training Jordanian personnel in agriculture, industry, science and technology in a number of European countries.

## AMERICA: CLOSER BY THE DOZEN.

Every week, Air France offers 65 flights between Paris and the 12 most important cities in the United States and Canada. Every week, Air France offers two Airbus flights between Amman and Paris on Sundays and Fridays. While welcomed in

NEW YORK  
LOS ANGELES  
SAN FRANCISCO  
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## Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 1988

### Jordan Times

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### Shame on the U.S.

THE U.S. State Department's refusal to grant PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat a visa to enable him to travel to New York and address the United Nations General Assembly is impolite, miscalculated and an open slap in the face of all peace-loving nations.

To accuse Arafat, who has guided his people's struggle for independence through a moderate course, of supporting terrorism and thus of being ineligible to travel to the "land of the free" is at best uninhibited hypocrisy on the part of a country whose name would not survive even a casual scrutiny of the international record of political terrorism for decades.

Secretary of State George Shultz, who is said to have taken the decision on his own, no doubt urged on by his Zionist friends, has been claiming over the years that he was pushing the Middle East peace process forward. We wonder on which direction is Shultz now pushing that process. Certainly, his decision only pleases the Israeli leaders who adamantly reject all peace bids, even those advocated by Shultz himself. Perhaps Shultz was exercising his power to present the Israeli leaders with one parting gift. While the entire world, including American allies and friends, were waiting to hear Arafat's offer of peace — particularly now that he has the mandate of the Palestine National Council and even the endorsement of hardline Palestinians and Arabs — Shultz opted to defy his own advisers at the State Department and went solely on his decision without even the president having a say in it. No wonder, Shimon Peres, Israel's "advocate of peace," was quick to respond with his "appreciation of the decision."

Now that the U.S. has shown its true colours, it is up to the United Nations, under constant financial pressure from the U.S., to decide whether or not to move the General Assembly session on Palestine to Geneva to enable the leader of the Palestine liberation movement to address the world community.

We cannot but recall what Arafat warned when he declared an independent state at the PNC session in Algiers earlier this month. "I can always come back to the PNC and tell them that our bid for peace has fallen on deaf ears." If that happens, God forbid, and the Middle East edges again towards violence, then the U.S., the U.S. alone, will bear the brunt of the blame.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Sunday discussed the prisoners of war exchanges between Iran and Iraq and Iran's failure to repatriate the ill prisoners to Iraq in accordance to the original agreement sponsored by the Red Cross. Iran seems to be dragging its feet in the exchange process and not displaying humanitarian feelings towards the incapacitated humans in captivity, the paper noted. The paper advises the Iranians to be more positive in their attitude so as to create a favourable atmosphere that could pave the way for the repatriation of all prisoners of war held captive by both sides. Any further procrastination in repatriating the Iraqi ill and handicapped prisoners would not contribute to the aspired peace, nor would it help build bridges of understanding between the Arabs and the Iranians, the paper added. It said that Iraq's positive stand vis-a-vis this issue should prompt Tehran to act wisely so that the people of the two neighbouring Muslim states have new hope for peace.

The editor of Al Ra'i daily Sunday tackles the question of Washington's rejection of PLO chief Yasser Arafat's request for a visa to visit New York and address the U.N. General Assembly. The rejection was not a mere shock to the world but also marked a new blow to all the ideals and international laws to which the United States claims to be adhering. Rakau Al Majali writes. Washington has announced its rejection of Arafat's request under the pretext of fighting terrorism and the allegation that the PLO condones terrorism. But Majali says there can be nothing more dangerous than the acts of political terrorism which the U.S. exercises against the Palestinian people's rights and U.S. encouragement of the Zionist state to practice oppression against the people of Palestine. What could be the political stand and the value of any attitude of such a superpower after taking such a decision, and what credibility would that superpower possess? asks the writer. Arafat was instrumental in prompting the PLO to accept U.N. Security Council Resolutions 358 and 342, a decision which was coupled with the acceptance of peace and renunciation of any form of terrorism. Majali continues. He said that the Algiers proclamation has exposed to the whole world the ugly face of Zionism and the international terrorism exercised by the U.S. and Israel and their disregard for all values and principles, and their hostile attitudes towards peace.

Al Dustour daily discussed U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's report to the United Nations on the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. The paper cited parts of the report in which the secretary general describes the inhuman practices against the civilian population, and said that the international community should take proper and speedy action to protect the civilians from continued Israeli atrocities. The people of Palestine, the paper noted, are maintaining the struggle to regain their rights and their homeland; and the Israeli repressive measures can by no means stop the uprising, the paper noted. The U.N. and the secretary general should act now to stop the killing of innocent civilians, violations of human rights and international laws, demolitions of Arab homes, deportations and other forms of criminal actions committed by the Israelis in the occupied territories, the paper said.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on Arafat's visit to Jordan following the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state. The paper said thanks to Jordan's continued support for the Palestinians and King Hussein's decision to sever ties with the West Bank, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has been greatly strengthened and bilateral cooperation boosted. The paper echoed King Hussein's statements to the BBC last week in which he said Jordan has no ambitions in other territories and its main objective is to help the Palestinians regain their lands and rights.

## Break the ice

By Waleed Sadi

OUR security leadership and manpower are doing such a commendable job in our cities and towns that they have become the envy of many countries and governments. The high profile, dedication and efficiency of our police force have contributed to this happy state of affairs and we are all proud of them.

Yet, there is always room for improvement of our police forces in some domains that have been bypassed or neglected. The singular most important feature that can be introduced to our police forces in this context is the public relations dimension. I think the incorporation of public relations departments into our police system at the regional and sub-regional levels could go a long way to ameliorate the overall picture.

When one talks of public relations activities one does not think only in terms of entertainment or planning visits of dignitaries whether local or foreign. What I have in mind is the establishment of public relation sections attached to major centres of police operations whose mandate and mission would be to establish a rapport between policemen and citizens.

The purpose would be to change the existing situation where

doubt permeates the relations between the average man or women on the street and the rank and file of the police force. We should strive for a police-public relation that is characterised by friendship and alliance. What could be done in this vein is plentiful.

Even a friendly smile and a warm handshake between the two sides could break the ice that sometimes unfortunately exists. Social functions bringing the police departments closer to their communities can also lend support to this objective.

A model police force to emulate in this context is the Japanese police force. The Japanese have succeeded not only in creating an efficient and effective police force capable of solving up to 85 per cent of all crimes but also a security force that enjoys the most amiable relations with the public. There is an alliance between the Japanese police force and the Japanese public that made the success story of the Japanese police force a reality. The main feature of the bright Japanese experience is their ability to strike a harmonious relations between the various sectors of their society including the police system. The average Japanese policeman

engages the public with a friendly smile that immediately conveys the impression that he is on the same side with the public that he seeks to protect and safeguard.

When one talks of smiles and friendly exchange of greetings one does not think only of their literal meanings. There is a whole set of guidelines that go along with the spirit of harmonious and positive interrelations between the two sides that could be incorporated in the overall policy geared for healthier relationships between our policemen and our citizens.

This is not the time or place to spell out all these principles. I am sure that our leaders in the security section of our society know very well how to energise the interrelations between them and the people that they want to protect. Our streets and cities and towns are among the safest in the world. The credit goes to our police forces and their superiors. We want to keep our neighbourhoods secure and safe by forging a stronger alliance between us and them. That is why an additional rapport between the two sides could make that objective more achievable.

## Armenia, Azerbaijan — uneasy neighbours for centuries

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuter

LONDON — Caught in the crunch of big-power politics at the frontiers of Europe and Asia, Christian Armenians and Muslim Azerbaijani have for generations vented their frustrations on each other.

Uneasy neighbours in the Caucasus Mountains, straddling the borders of Russia, Turkey and Iran, neither nation has had a durable independent state of its own in modern times.

Instead, since the tsars moved into the Caucasus in the early 19th century, both peoples have seen their ancestral lands divided between two powers — Armenia between Russia and Turkey, and Azerbaijan between Russia and Iran.

It was the Romanov dynasty's expansionist policy that stitched together the country now called the Soviet Union. The tsars annexed Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in the late 19th century, then Armenia, Georgia and

Azerbaijan, and finally a vast swathe of Central Asia in the mid-19th century.

The Romanovs were swept away over 70 years ago, but with the later clashes in the Caucasus and nationalist moves in the Baltic states the ethnic problems they left behind have come back to haunt the Soviet Union's present rulers.

Greater freedoms introduced by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev have lifted the lid on long pent-up emotions among the "family of nations," as Soviet publicists call the more than 100 nationalities inhabiting the 15 Soviet republics.

Friction between Armenians and Azerbaijanis is rooted deep in their region's turbulent past. Repeated invasions scattered the two peoples through the mountainous area, often leaving them living side-by-side as frontiers were arbitrarily changed by the great powers.

The Armenians, whose recorded history goes back at least 2,500 years, have been Christians since St. Gregory the Illuminator converted their ruler Tiridates III about 300 A.D. Theirs has sometimes been called the oldest Christian nation in the world.

The Azerbaijanis, inhabiting an area further east and speaking a language akin to Turkish, were converted to Islam by Arab conquerors in the 7th century.

In the days of Julius Caesar, Greater Armenia was a power to be reckoned with, but the country lost its independence at the end of the 14th century.

In 1915 the Ottoman Turkish government, believing the Armenians were collaborating with its enemy Russia in World War I, ordered them deported from eastern Turkey.

Hundreds of thousands died in what the Armenians still charge was attempted genocide. Turkey denies there was any deliberate massacre.

There had been bloodshed, too, on the Russian side of the border. A war between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in 1818-20 is thought to have killed one-fifth

of the population of Karabagh (now Nagorno-Karabakh), an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan.

There were further bloody clashes between the two peoples in 1990 in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, and they fought again over Karabagh in 1991.

The Armenians have generally been well-disposed towards Moscow, seeing the Soviet republic of Armenia as the nearest thing they are likely to get to an independent state, and also as a bulwark against the hated Turks.

But there has been lingering resentment over decisions on enclaves taken in the early 1920s.

Nakhichevan, a district with a large Azerbaijani community sandwiched between Armenia and Iran, was awarded to Azerbaijan. The Soviets also put Karabagh, a 75 per cent Armenian area surrounded by Azerbaijan, under Azerbaijani control.

Moscow's refusal to change the status of Nagorno-Karabakh has been at the centre of this year's troubles in the Caucasus.

## Apartheid loses its last buffer

THE popping of champagne corks in Geneva hopefully ushered in a new era for the long-troubled Southern African region. There now remains only the problem of South Africa's future to be resolved.

In Switzerland toasts were being drunk to celebrate an agreement reached between Angolan, Cuban and South African delegates, with the United States as a mediator.

The accord is designed to achieve two long-sought aims — to bring independence to Namibia and peace to Angola. These two issues had become inextricably intertwined since South Africa insisted on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, ravaged by civil war since its independence 15 years ago.

This was Pretoria's pre-condition for surrendering control of Namibia, the former German colony which it has been administering in defiance of the United Nations, since the First World War.

The Geneva agreement, which

is subject to ratification by the three governments, has been likened to the last major breakthrough in the region eight years ago. This was the ending of the Rhodesian racist regime and the subsequent emergence of an independent Zimbabwe.

It is now expected that the seven-month countdown to Namibia's independence will start in February, culminating in elections under UN supervision. But the Geneva accord will not automatically bring an end to Angolan's internal conflict.

However, there are hopes that the protagonists, the Marxist MPLA and the rival nationalist group, UNITA, will meet soon in an effort to reach a settlement.

Following the departure of the colonial power, Portugal, the MPLA gained power in Luanda with help from communist countries, including Cuban troops, who are now believed to number about 50,000.

Few doubt that a resolution of the Namibian and Angolan problems will not have profound im-

plications for Southern Africa's future. But South Africa's departure from Namibia will have an added significance in Africa and elsewhere.

For it will be seen as a loss to apartheid of its last buffer against the reality represented by independent Africa outside of Zimbabwe.

Until the mid-1970s South Africa was shielded from this by the then Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique, as well as by the racist Rhodesian regime. It remains to be seen whether the withdrawal from Namibia will concentrate minds and bring nearer a solution of the republic's own problems.

Some of the latest events there do not augur well in this respect. These show that the apartheid clock could be turned back, negating the reforms of recent years.

The breakaway Conservative Party, which now constitutes the official opposition, appears determined to restore aspects of the old-style apartheid in the 90 of so

municipalities it captures in last month's local elections.

"Whites only" signs were already reappearing as the party vowed that public facilities which had been de-segregated, would be re-segregated. These would include amenities such as transport, parks, theatres and swimming pools.

The threat drew a stinging retort from President Botha who asked whether the Conservatives had considered the international repercussions. It was easy, he said, to "crow" but a different matter to defend South Africa's case abroad and keep sanctions at bay.

However, the regressive steps contemplated could eventually cost the diehard white supremacists dear. Some observers believe that one of the government's responses to this challenge from the right could be to revert to a common electoral roll for white, Asian and coloured (mixed race) voters — Lion features.

Finally, after decades of leading the Arab World by the nose with the farce of seeking a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the American leadership has bared its ugly snout by denying an entry visa to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to address the United Nations and present the Palestinian and Arab view of a solution. The rejection has torn down the last veil that thinly covered the firm American position that if there was to be a peace settlement in the Middle East it has to be on Zionist-American terms which have nothing to do with justice, least of all for the Palestinians.

The U.S. State Department can issue a million-word statement citing legal parameters and "terrorism" to justify the denial of a visa to Arafat, but it can't hope to hide the fact that it only wants to deprive the PLO leader of an opportunity to present to the international community the Palestinian case and the PLO's acceptance of international legitimacy as the basis for a solution to their quest for independence and self-determination. Needless to say, if Arafat can get his message across to the U.N. in so many words the obvious loser is Israel, the staunchest American ally in the Middle East.

The battle lines are drawn; and there is no use pinning the faintest hope on the U.S. for a just settlement to the conflict in the Middle East. It is not only the Zionist lobby but also the American political leadership that wants a dictated settlement in the Middle East. That is precisely the loud and clear message we are getting from Washington. So much for the years of efforts that were wasted in shaping a moderate international platform and political agenda for the Palestinian struggle. What political consideration and justification could there be for an administration in its last throes in office to reject a legitimate peace bid by one of the main parties involved in a violent conflict that spanned forty years and five wars? It is not as if granting a visa means an independent Palestinian state, but perhaps Washington has become so paranoid that anything remotely connected to Palestinian rights is anathema to Capitol Hill.

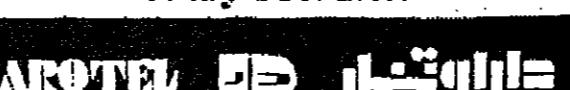
One could acutely hear those great men who penned the great constitution of the United States of America turning over in their graves and wishing they could sink deeper into the earth and avoid any linkage with their successors who have no qualms over openly flouting the noble principles of freedom, liberty, fraternity, independence and self-determination that their country was founded and thrived on.

In a way, the American move has also done a great favour to the Palestinian cause, in that it reinforced the true image of the U.S. as the bully of the world and showed to the international community how biased and stubborn the United States of America could be in its double-faced interpretation of various regional issues and how protective it could be when it comes to its own "strategic" interests, whether in the Middle East, Asia or Latin America. The question that remains is: Will the European states, which have a long record of turning towards Washington for political leadership when it comes to major issues, pick up the cue and move to protect their own "strategic" interests which are not exactly the American version? Will they accept and respond appropriately the reality that their "big brother" across the Atlantic has nothing but his own interests at heart and that justice and fairness have turned alien words to him?

Indeed, there have been recent signals from Europe that the continent is not exactly happy to kowtow to American whims and fancies over the future of entire peoples. But can the Europeans break down the psychological barriers and look at things differently, with a little more sense of justice and fairness this time? Are they willing to take the lead in pushing for a just Middle East peace, which is indeed of paramount interest to them?

Inad Khairallah

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## Legal aid centre teaches women their civil rights

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Poor women in Jordan with legal problems can take refuge at the Arab Consultant Centre where lawyers will either offer advice or will take the case to court.

Established in 1984 as an advisory service for women in need of legal, social, psychological and family consultations, the Arab Consultant Centre in 1986 began offering legal services at a reduced fee to women of lower economic status.

According to the head of the centre, Butheina Jardaneh, 45 lawyers, 14 of which are female, "have more or less volunteered their services." The lower number of female lawyers is due to the uneven ratio of male to female in this field, added Jardaneh.

There has been a positive response to the centre, largely due to the wide publicity the centre received in newspapers, on the radio and television and through word of mouth, as a place which "enlightens" women of their rights and obligations.

According to Jardaneh, before the centre was established, a survey of 480 women from all social backgrounds indicated that women were facing problems and statements needed help.

"Women, or men for that matter, do not know what their rights are, do not know what their obligations are, and end up losing their rights as a result. Since all our work is confidential, the women trust us and come to us. We try to help them in understanding what is in the law for them," she said.

Over the past three years, hundreds of women have benefited from the centre. Daily an average of two to three women visit the centre located in Jabal Al Webdeh.



Amman's Business and Professional Women Club hold their seminar in 1985 on detention in the Jordanian law (file photo).

In 1986 a total of 450 cases were brought to the centre, of which 199 required court actions to settle them. Of these, however, only 113 could be taken to court because of shortage of funding.

In the following year, 570 cases were presented to the lawyers at the centre. Again due to lack of funding, only 131 of the 220 cases that needed adjudication actually reached the courts.

This year, 245 cases have so far been brought to the centre, but as the institutes budget ceiling caters for only 150 court actions to date 137 cases have appeared in court.

Divorce is involved in the majority of the cases brought to the centre. However, "not all the cases which are brought to the centre need legislation. Many times advice or solving the problems through peaceful means it enough," Jardaneh said.

An example of a typical day at the centre is as follows: a woman comes in with a complaint, usually a result of the financial problems the family is facing. Jardaneh explained that most of the cases have to do with the husband not having enough money because he is either a gambler or a drunkard and spends the money on cards and drink; or he has married another woman and must therefore support two households; or he has too many children and his wife wants to live at a higher standard than her husband can afford.

"We try to convince the woman to allow us to talk to her husband. But sometimes the woman is afraid and refuses such a request," she said.

If a peaceful solution is impossible and legal advice is futile, then the case, if it is linked to a legal issue, is transferred to the legal committee, which consists of two legal consultants who work part time at the centre. After a

Jordan will see another consultant office opened in Irbid in the near future. "Irbid was chosen because it is quite far from Amman, and the women in Irbid and

participate in the centre.

The centre has a joint programme with the institution for modern development for weekly lectures in all areas in the Kingdom. After the lectures, the team of lawyers and psychological consultants receive cases.

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## OPEC hits unexpected snag

VIENNA (R) — Iran accused Saudi Arabia Sunday of trying to sabotage an OPEC agreement to cut oil production as a last-minute hitch arose in marathon talks in Vienna.

Iran's senior OPEC delegate here, Fereidoon Barkeshly, said his country rejected Saudi Arabia's sudden new injection into the agreement of a \$15 to \$18 a barrel range for oil prices and added:

"This can sabotage the agreement... it can totally sabotage the agreement."

Ministers from the 13-nation group had been on the verge of signing an agreement to slash output by up to 20 per cent, but the sudden new Saudi proposal threw the conference into turmoil.

OPEC went into emergency talks over Riyadh's proposal which delegates said at best would delay signature of a deal and at worst risked opening a new split in the group.

"Iran is not going to accept this type of idea," Barkeshly told reporters. "Iran will not shoulder the responsibility of any complications."

"People are coming up with new ideas which were never discussed and we never knew about it. We are not going to accept anything besides what we had decided here with the minister," he said.

The Iranian minister, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, had carried a draft agreement back to Tehran Friday and the Iranian leadership announced earlier Sunday that it would sign.

The draft underlined OPEC's commitment to defend its target price of \$18 a barrel, in force for

two years but now largely academic as prices have slid for lower.

But the draft made no mention of the \$15 per barrel floor price now being suggested by Saudi Arabia.

The earlier Iranian cabinet acceptance had appeared to remove the last obstacle to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) efforts to secure a deal with all 13 members to limit output in the first six months of 1989 to 18.5 million barrels a day.

The OPEC proposal endorsed by the Iranian leadership included permission for Tehran's former Gulf war enemy Iraq to produce same amount of oil as Iran, giving each a 14.27 per cent share of the overall ceiling.

It was bitter row between Iran and Iraq, which is historically the smaller producer of the two, over this parity issue that had kept the Vienna talks in deadlock for the first eight days.

The way then seemed clear to signature of an accord, but within an hour of the endorsement from Tehran, Barkeshly was giving hints of the impending storm.

"There are certain points that have to be cleared. I haven't said a word on acceptance," he said.

He later said the Iranian cabinet had only endorsed the draft agreement that Aqazadeh carried back to Tehran and he would not be returning to enter into further negotiations.

"It looked as though Aqazadeh had foisted the Gulf Arab oil

returning," Barkeshly said. "It is confirmed that he is not going to come back. I am authorised to sign what was earlier agreed to on his behalf. No additions, no major diversions like this," he stressed.

Oil prices soared at the end of last week on optimism that the group was about to form a united front in its bid to mop up the glut on world markets which is depressing prices.

Analysts said that although Iran had now conceded the principle of allowing Iraq to produce an equal amount of oil — 2.64 million barrels a day under the draft accord — it would have also scored several points.

Iraq would have to cut back production from current levels by about 100,000 barrels per day and longer-term plans to crank up output to four million would be thwarted.

But the price issue goes to the heart of long-standing divisions over oil policy among the 13 producers.

Some, such as Iran, Algeria and Libya, have traditionally been considered "price hawks." Others such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates line up in the opposite camp, concentrating more on their share of the world petroleum market and pursuing a more moderate position on pricing.

Oil market analysts came up with two main theories for the Saudi decision to bring up discussion of a new price mechanism.

— Politics: Saudi Arabia, analysts say, could be trying to reaffirm its traditional leading role in shaping OPEC policy and may be attempting to prevent Iran capturing the headlines and taking political credit for a group deal to shore up prices.

"It looks as though Aqazadeh had foisted the Gulf Arab oil

producers," said Fergus Macleod of brokers Barclays De Zoete Wedd in London. "Here is a way of clawing something back."

— Finances: Analysts said Saudi Arabia was probably genuinely concerned that the new OPEC deal might not push prices up to a \$15 level. They said it wanted to set up a new mechanism to ensure OPEC oil would not be sold below \$15.

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There were also signs Sunday that Tehran was out to make the most of the deal it thought its endorsement had sealed.

Aqazadeh was quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA as saying in Tehran: "Iran once again displayed its spirit of cooperation for OPEC members to reach a unanimous agreement."

Saudi Arabia would also see its share of OPEC's production ceiling fall to 24.46 per cent from 26.16 per cent under the group's now largely defunct accord reached in December, 1986.

Delegates said Iran appeared to be trying to rally support against the Saudi proposal from Libya and Algeria, nations which had been ready to accept a smaller percentage share of their overall ceiling in the hope a new accord would push world petroleum prices higher.

## Jordanian fair opens in Cairo this week

CAIRO (J.T.) — A Jordanian industrial fair is due to open here Thursday to promote the sale of Jordanian products in Egyptian markets.

According to Zuhair Freihat, director of the Jordanian Trade Centre in Cairo, nearly 100 Jordanian industrial businesses will take part in the fair which will display wide ranging products and sell directly to the public in accordance with bilateral agreements.

Freihat said that Jordanian merchants participating in the fair will be negotiating with the World Bank for loans worth \$600 million to boost agricultural, industrial and energy production.

"But the bottleneck is still there and the problem will remain for a long time," he said, departing from a written text.

Sedki said earnings from exports including oil in 1987-88 rose by 4.5 per cent over the previous year to \$3.3 billion. He gave no figure for imports.

Remittances from expatriates tripled to \$1.5 billion, he said. Government officials estimate more than three million Egyp-

tians are working abroad, mostly in Gulf Arab states.

Other major foreign currency earners were revenues from Suez Canal tolls and tourism.

Sedki said he was confident an increase in exports and tourism would gradually ease the shortage. He said more efforts should be exerted to encourage Arab tourism, which accounted for 18 per cent of visitors.

The prime minister said Egypt was negotiating with the World Bank for loans worth \$600 million to boost agricultural, industrial and energy production.

He said talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a second agreement were continuing. This would let Egypt reschedule debt payments falling due between last July 1 and the end of 1989.

Egypt's total foreign debt is

estimated at \$43 billion. Payments to service the debt, due from last July 1 to the end of next year, are estimated at \$4 billion.

An earlier standby credit agreement with the IMF allowed Egypt to reschedule debt payments due from January 1987 until late June 30. But Egypt has been reported in default for payments due after that date.

"The talks (with the IMF) are very complicated and difficult," Sedki said.

Several IMF teams have visited Cairo in recent months to assess progress in reforms agreed under last year's accord but talks were inconclusive.

Sedki said an official free foreign exchange market set up in May last year under the agreement with the IMF had brought in \$3.3 billion during 1987-88, which would otherwise have been channelled to the black market.

## Egypt anticipates long foreign currency crisis

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's foreign currency shortage will continue for some time despite a \$1.6 billion rise in hard currency earnings in 1987-1988, Prime Minister Atif Sedki said Saturday.

Sedki, presenting his policy statement to a new session of the People's Assembly, said hard currency earnings rose to \$11.3 billion in the fiscal year ended June 30, compared to \$9.7 billion the previous year.

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## U.S. arms dealers run into slower markets, tougher world competition

WASHINGTON (AP) — Overseas sales by U.S. arms manufacturers shrank significantly in fiscal 1987 despite a strong demand for weapons by Middle East countries, a new study concludes.

The McDonnell Douglas Corp. was one of the few major defence contractors to buck the industry slump and managed to assume

the position of No. 1 arms exporter with sales totalling \$657 million, the study adds.

"The value of contracts awarded to U.S. defence contractors for military equipment and services earmarked for export abroad fell in fiscal year 1987 for the second year in a row, to \$4.9 billion — off 22 per cent from the

1986 level and a whopping 44 per cent below 1985," concludes the report.

"The overall decline in foreign military sales led to a drop in the level of arms export business for 17 of the top 25 U.S. arms exporting companies, in 1987," the report noted.

The new study was performed by the Investor Responsibility Research Centre, which bills itself as a non-partisan research organisation dedicated to conducting impartial studies on public policy issues involving corporate America.

The group has been analysing foreign arms sales for several years, focusing on the official foreign military sale, or FMS, transactions, that are arranged and overseen by the U.S. government.

FMS sales account for about 84 per cent of all U.S. arms exports; the remainder normally involved company-to-country agreements.

The research centre waits until complete government tabulations are available for each fiscal year, meaning there normally is a lag of more than a year. The latest report covers the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1987.

Centre officials attributed the steep decline in U.S. overseas sales to a small drop in overall demand coupled with an increase in competition.

"The biggest reason for the dropoff is going to do with competition," said Paul Ferrari, a centre spokesman. "It's a tighter market out there."

"There has been a behind-the-scenes struggle over who will control imports," said one. "Private traders will see the death knell sounding when they hear this."

Until September 1987, when the government cut the subsidy to 100 riyals (\$27), importers received a generous 300 riyals (\$80) for each tonne of barley.

This encouraged the import of an estimated 8.2 million tonnes in 1987, causing huge surpluses to pile up.

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Kasseem urged Gulf investors Sunday to bring home billions of dollars in capital invested abroad.

Kasseem also told delegates attending a two-day Gulf export promotion seminar in Bahrain that the time was right to transfer some government-owned projects to the private sector.

"King Fahd has issued his approval that the Grain Silos and Flour Mills Organisation import a quantity of barely of good quality, free of dust and fungus," Agricultural Minister Abdul Rahman ibn Hassan Al Sheikh said.

Sheikh, quoted by the Saudi Press Agency, said it would be sold to consumers at reduced prices until the kingdom could complete a programme to become self-sufficient in barley.

Diplomats said the silos organisation's move into direct imports had been widely predicted in the market. They said many traders believed the government might move in to take over much, if not all, the trade.

"There has been a behind-the-scenes struggle over who will control imports," said one. "Private traders will see the death knell sounding when they hear this."

The advice is given in a book by J. William Middendorf: "Mandate for Leadership III: Policy Strategies for the 1990s," published by a conservative study group, the Heritage Foundation. The foundation distributed copies

now it is time for the private sector to hold the flag and continue the march," he said in an opening address.

Member states are trying to diversify their economies away from oil but some bankers estimate the total amount of private funds invested outside the region at around \$150 billion — more than twice the total GCC budgets for 1988.

According to the Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank, GCC export revenue, which come mainly from oil or refined products, rose by 15 per cent in 1987 to \$51 billions.

## Bahraini minister calls for repatriation of Gulf capital

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's

Emirates in an economic and political alliance.

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"It would have exposed as repressive and economically useless such policies as AID's (the U.S. government's agency for economic development) collectivisation of agriculture in El Salvador.

Middendorf was Reagan's ambassador to the European Community and to the Organisation of American States. He would like to see his proposed index applied not only by the U.S. government but also by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other organisations.

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## Former Reagan diplomat seeks restrictions on Third World aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former diplomat who served under President Ronald Reagan has proposed that President-elect George Bush establish an economic index to help ensure that Third World aid goes only to governments that promote free markets.

The advice is given in a book by J. William Middendorf: "Mandate for Leadership III: Policy Strategies for the 1990s," published by a conservative study group, the Heritage Foundation. The foundation distributed copies

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## Gorbachev tackles Baltic unrest through Praesidium Azerbaijani party chiefs sacked; tension persists

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party leaders in two Soviet Azerbaijani cities have been sacked as the death toll rose to 10 in the past week's ethnic clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanis.

The party chiefs were removed in Kirovabad and Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The party headquarters in both cities were attacked by angry crowds this week as ethnic tensions exploded into violence.

Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman Musa Mamedov said the situation was still tense in Kirovabad, scene of most of the violence reported in the past week.

A curfew is in force there and troops have ringed the Armenian quarter to protect it from the Azerbaijani majority.

A spokesman at party headquarters in the city, who gave his name as Chingiz Sadykhov, said Sunday had passed calmly so far although Azerbaijanis were meeting in the central square.

He said they were demanding that the future of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, which is at the heart of the unrest, be decided once and for all.

"They are saying that if the

authorities do not resolve the issue, we will resolve it ourselves," Sadykhov said.

A Soviet official in Moscow said the violence in Kirovabad had been sparked by rumours that a forthcoming session of the Soviet parliament planned to hand Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia.

The Communist Party leader of Kirovabad, Rumiz Rangirly, was sacked Saturday at an emergency session of the local party to discuss the violence. Mamedov said. He was replaced by Suleiman Farkhad Ogly Mamedov.

The party chief of the region of Nakhichevan, Nuratdin Mustafayev, lost his job in a similar session the same day. He was replaced by Geydar Isayev, a member of the Azerbaijani Communist Party Central Committee. Mamedov said.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Saturday that there had been six deaths in Kirovabad this week — four soldiers and two Azerbaijanis civilians.

in nearly three decades as part of his efforts to ease public anger over his disgraced predecessor.

But an official at the Azerbaijani news agency Azerinform said Sunday that four Azerbaijani civilians had died in Kirovabad.

That brought the week's death toll to 10 when combined with the count in Armenia, where the news agency Armenpress has confirmed the deaths of one Armenian and one Azerbaijani in two towns in the republic Thursday.

### Constitutional reform

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Saturday the Kremlin had radically revised draft constitutional amendments, in an apparent compromise with critics who said they gave Moscow too much power.

The criticism was led by mass movements demanding more sovereignty from Moscow for the Baltic republics, but recently the parliament of Soviet Georgia and top legislators in Armenia added their voice to the protests.

Gorbachev had hard words for a recent decision by the parliament in the Baltic republic of Estonia that proclaimed a local veto power over Kremlin laws and local control over natural resources and industry.

The Estonian legislation was "political adventurism nudging Estonia onto a fatal path of economic isolationism and destroying the country's unitary economy," Gorbachev said, according to Moscow Radio.

Gorbachev said the Praesidium had taken recent public discussion of the proposed changes into consideration.

"As a result of the democratic process of discussion we have today drafts which differ considerably from what was previously published," he said in remarks to the Praesidium that were carried on Soviet Television news.

The changes improve the drafts and the main thing is they express the moods of the overwhelming majority of the people," he said.

He spoke at a session of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet, or parliament, which met to prepare for an extraordinary session due to approve the constitutional amendments next week.

The Praesidium decided to stick to the plan to seek approval of the amendments at the special Tuesday session and would issue the revised version of the changes to the parliament by then, TASS news agency reported.

Opposition leaders refused to accept the presidential plea for mercy for Chun and called for a thorough probe by the national assembly or a special prosecutor. Thousands of people have staged street protests to demand Chun's arrest.

"To resolve the discontent of the opposition, we realise the quality of the shake-up is very important, and it is highly likely that we would have a civilian defence minister," one government official said.

A well-placed source in the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) echoed these comments, adding, "President Roh really means business, and he wants to reflect the opposition's view as much as possible."

In a nationally televised speech Saturday, Roh appealed to the nation to forgive his disgraced predecessor. Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh promised speedier democratic reforms, including a major shake-up of his government and party.

Chun, who stepped down in February, was forced to take rural exile last Wednesday after coming under attack for corruption and abuse of power during his seven-year rule. He surrendered all of his property, worth \$24 million, in atonement.

The last time South Korea had a civilian defence minister was in 1960 when the late President Park Chung-Hee staged a military coup and ousted a popularly elected government led by then-Prime Minister Chang Myun. The Defence post has since then been filled by retired generals.

Novelist Jeffrey Archer, who conceived the day-long hearing, opened it with a quote from U.S. actor and Shakespeare enthusiast

## 2 Mandela colleagues freed

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The government has freed two seriously ill black anti-apartheid leaders in a move certain to heighten speculation about the possible release of their colleague, Nelson Mandela.

Harry Gwala, 69, a long-time member of the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement, and Zephaniah Mothopeng, 75, president of the Pan Africanist Congress, were released unconditionally Saturday "on medical-humanitarian grounds," the prisons service said in a brief statement.

Gwala, Mothopeng and Mandela all began their ANC activity in the 1940s, although Mothopeng left the organisation in 1959 to help found the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

Gwala was freed from Western Cape prison in the Indian Ocean city of Durban and Mothopeng

was released from Diepkloof prison in the Soweto township outside Johannesburg.

Gwala had spent more than 20 years in prison and was serving a life sentence for his involvement with the outlawed ANC guerrilla movement, headed by Mandela.

"I'm very much excited. This came unexpectedly," Gwala said in a telephone interview from his home in the southeastern city of Pietermaritzburg.

Gwala has a terminal illness known as "motor-neuron disease," a degenerative neurological disorder with no known cure. Gwala said the illness has left his arms paralysed, but his mind remains clear.

Mothopeng, who has been seriously ill for several months, was a member of the ANC during the 1940s and 1950s.

Mothopeng was arrested in 1976 and sentenced to 15 years

in prison for his involvement with the outlawed organisation. He was elected president of the PAC in 1986 despite his imprisonment.

Both organisations use armed force in their efforts to topple the South African government. But the Pan African group favours black self-sufficiency in the struggle for political rights, while the ANC supports a multiracial approach.

South Africa's policy of apartheid establishes a racially segregated society in which the country's 34 million blacks have no vote in national affairs. The nation's five million whites control the economy and maintain separate districts, schools and health services.

Gwala and Mothopeng became friends when they were both imprisoned on Robben Island off Cape Town in the early 1980s, Gwala said.

## COLUMN

### Noah the Boa is free again

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Michigan (AP) — "Noah the Boa" is a free snake again after nearly four days of captivity in the dashboard of a car belonging to one of his red-faced handlers. Judy Booth of the J.L. Johnson Nature Centre said she drove the 2.7-kilometres, 1.52-metre Boa constrictor to a preschool for a Friday morning presentation. "I put him back in the car and went to lunch for about an hour," Booth said. "That was a big mistake."

Noah, probably spooked by unfamiliar surroundings, slithered out of his pillowcase carrier and under the dashboard, she said. After failing to lure the serpent out with morsels of his favourite foods, she was forced to spend the weekend keeping Noah warm with a heat lamp. Booth took the car to a auto dealership Monday, where Rick Hetchler and another mechanic freed the snake as about two dozen people watched.

"It was no big deal," Hetchler said. "It's just a snake. The fun part will be putting the dashboard back together."

### Parishioner offer 'lard to the Lord'

GERING, Nebraska (AP) — Members of two western Nebraska churches are lighter as a result of a competitive dieting "race" in which they offered up "lard to the Lord."

The United States has offered \$25,000 in aid and sent a joint mission with Canada to estimate relief needs.

"This is the worst disaster in the history of the south," said Deputy Interior Minister Trairong Suwanakkhiri.

Four villages in the Piphun and Lansaka districts, west of Nakhon Si Thammarat, were overwhelmed by a tide of mud and water that hurled logs through wooden buildings in the middle of the night Tuesday.

### British lords back Shakespeare

LONDON (AP) — Sitting in an Elizabethan chamber where William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" was first performed, three British law lords Saturday ruled unanimously that the bard was truly the author of those famous plays that bear his name.

An audience of 350 crowded into Middle Temple hall in the heart of London's law courts district to watch the argument over whether the wool-merchant's son from Stratford-upon-Avon or Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford, actually wrote Shakespeare's plays and poems.

The seven-hour hearing, with breaks for lunch and tea, was marked by scholarship and bursts of humour.

Novelist Jeffrey Archer, who conceived the day-long hearing, opened it with a quote from U.S. actor and Shakespeare enthusiast

Sam Wanamaker — "I am fascinated by the authorship question, but the play's the thing."

An estimated £100,000 (\$36,000) in ticket sales from the hearing will help fund Wanamaker's project to rebuild the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare's plays were performed for London audiences on its original 16th-century site by the Thames river.

With judges, witnesses and lawyers behaving as they would in a real-life court of law, the hearing was being filmed for a possible TV production.

Charles Vere, 23-year-old descendant of the earl and a student at Oxford University, made the case for his ancestor after three U.S. supreme court justices found the evidence wanting in a similar hearing 14 months ago in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Justices William J. Bren-

nan, Junior Harry A. Blackmun and John Paul Stevens expressed unease about the authorship of Shakespeare's works, but ruled the evidence insufficient to ascribe them to de Vere.

"It's important to get people to understand, people who are prepared to take up the cudgels," said Vere, whose full name is Charles Francis Topham de Vere Benwick.

De Vere advocates are rehashing an argument that has swirled around the bard's head for more than 200 years — that Shakespeare lacked the knowledge of foreign travel and court life that features in the works.

They say de Vere, a dandy and poet familiar with Elizabethan court life, wrote the plays and poems but that conventions of the day stopped him putting his name to them.

### Nigeria airways drops elephant

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria airways, burdened by debts and a reputation for inefficiency, has decided to junk its 30-year-old elephant logo in favour of a soaring eagle. The flying elephant, often depicted as the ideal emblem for an airline whose planes frequently failed to leave the ground, will be replaced by an eagle superimposed on the letter N some time next month, spokesman Femi Ogunleye was quoted as saying in Friday's local papers.

### Starr returns from clinic

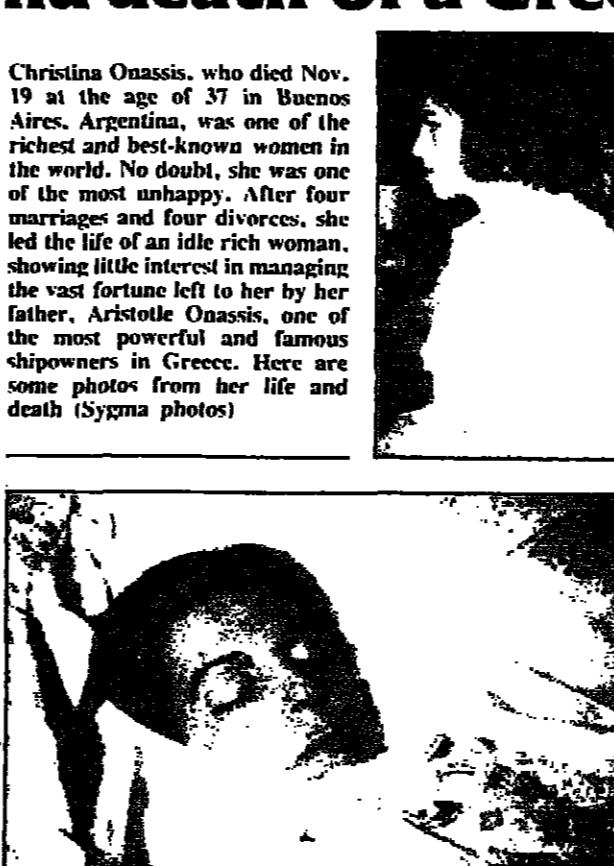
LONDON (AP) — Former Beatle Ringo Starr vowed he'd never drink again as he and his wife, actress Barbara Bach, returned Friday from five weeks in a U.S. alcoholism clinic. "I feel a lot better than I have for ages," Starr said in an interview with press association, the domestic news agency.

"I haven't had a drink for 45 days. That's amazing for me," Starr, 48, said. "We are not under doctors or anybody now. It's up to us. I am an alcoholic and my intention is never to drink again." The former drummer for the Beatles said: "The first thing we are planning is a really good Christmas. We want to live a normal life now." Reports of the couple's treatment programme were confirmed in early November by the Beatles' former press agent, Derek Taylor. He said at the time that Starr wanted to "go public because it was already sleeping out through fellow guests at the clinic" in Arizona.

## The life and death of a Greek heiress



With first husband Joseph Bolker, centre (1971)



Fourth husband Thierry Roussel (right)



With third husband Serguei Kauzov (1978)



At a social gathering (1973)



With father Aristotle, second from left (1966)